

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 L-02 AID-05 DODE-00 HEW-02 SS-15 /073 W

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R 200400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 580

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: U.S. COOPERATION/ASSISTANCE IN SELECTIVE FOREIGN

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 254205

1. THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN NEPAL. AS WASHINGTON AWARE, MISSION HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN NARCOTICS FIELD IN NEPAL IN ENCOURAGING GON TO ADOPT BASIC NARCOTICS LEGISLATION AND TO TRAIN OFFICIALS BOTH HERE AND IN U.S. IN CUSTOMS AND NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. GIVEN INCIPIENT STAGE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN NEPAL AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITY TO OUTSIDE PRESSURES RELATED TO NARCOTICS SITUATION, THERE IS LITTLE SCOPE FOR FURTHER ACTIVITY IN NEPAL AT THIS TIME BY USG.

2. IN REVIEWING REFTTEL, ONLY POSSIBILITY EMBASSY SAW FOR ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL ALONG LINES SUGGESTED WAS IN EDUCATION FIELD AS OUTLINED PARA 3(C). ACCORDINGLY, WE MADE LOW KEY INQUIRIES WITH UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS TO SEE IF THERE WAS INTEREST IN OBTAINING INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS, OR GUIDANCE ON PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT

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BE USED IN DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION EFFORTS. WE HAVE NOW BEEN

TOLD THAT SPONSORSHIP OF SUCH A PROGRAM BY US WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE. MIN EDUCATION OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE IN NEPAL WAS ONE AFFECTING ONLY "ELITE" AND THAT IT THEREFORE DID NOT MERIT ATTENTION IN SCHOOL SYSTEM.

3. COMMENT: STATEMENT BY MINISTRY OFFICIAL IS INTERESTING IN SENSE THAT IT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF HOW MANY NEPALESE VIEW NARCOTICS PROBLEM. WHILE NARCOTICS IN NEPAL ARE STILL PRIMARILY USED BY FOREIGNERS, THERE IS GROWING USAGE BY NEPALESE YOUTH, MOST OF WHOM HOWEVER, AS SUGGESTED BY OFFICIAL'S COMMENT, APPEAR TO COME FROM UPPER CLASSES OF NEPALESE SOCIETY. GIVEN ATTITUDE OF MOST NEPALESE WHO GENERALLY SEE NARCOTICS AS FOREIGN PROBLEM AND FACT THAT ANY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN SCHOOL SYSTEM WOULD PROBABLY BE SEEN AS UNDESIRABLE INTERFERENCE, EMBASSY AGREES WITH FEEDBACK INDICATING THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE. CARGO

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Message Attributes

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